

THE OLIVE BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

Spring-Summer 2017

missions-network.org

Special Delivery from
Ejido Uruapan, Mexico
From Our Hearts to
Your Mailbox!
SERVING
TOGETHER
OUR GOD
PROVIDES

“Hear my cry, Oh God!”

Psalm 61:1

FIRE "TOO CLOSE" TO MOUNT OF OLIVES CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

On May 26, 2017, fire came just a little “too close” to house #4, the new director's home at Mount of Olives (MoO). Workers in an acreage next to MoO's set a fire to burn off weeds. Before we knew it, the fire had crossed the deep gorge behind house #4 and headed up the west side of our property, breaching the top of the hill and heading down over the hilltop. Several neighbours saw the blaze and smoke, they came running to help our guys fight the blaze. All worked feverishly to keep the the fire from reaching the new house.

The wind had picked up and was heading right toward the house. At the last minute, God caused the wind to shift and it pushed the fire back against a fire break of dirt and the men with water hoses! The flames had come just a few feet from the house. Thank You God!

Prayer and Praise

- Rejoice in God's hand of Protection on MoO
- Pray for our Children as they finish up their school year and for the Graduates that are making plans for their futures, that they would seek God's guidance.
- Praise the Lord for the groups God is sending our way.
- Pray for our Staff daily for health, energy and unity as they work together as a team.



May 26, 2017 FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!



Sunrise at MoO



Charred Hillside

**Great is Thy
Faithfulness...
Morning by
Morning New
Mercies We See.**

**Please keep us all
in your prayers!**

MOUNT OF OLIVES HOSTS ITS FIRST WEDDING

Katie Davis(Gillham) was an "Auntie" here at Mount of Olives Children's Village in 2007. When she left, a piece of her heart stayed here. Katie has made several return trips over the past years, as well as keeping in touch with the kids through social media regularly.

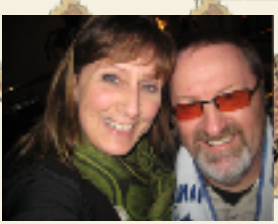
Last July, Katie said,"I do" to her soul mate Caleb Gillham. The children at MoO were over the top happy for Katie and Caleb. Katie had brought Caleb to MoO to meet everyone, previously. The children wished they could attend the wedding in Oregon. Impossible, but Katie promised a re-enactment of the wedding here at MoO.

Saturday, June 10 was the date set for the Wedding.

The ceremony took place in the courtyard where brilliant pink bougainvillea were in abundance. Pastor Darrell walked Katie down the aisle as well as officiating the service. Leonel Vasquez interpreted in Spanish.

Special musical songs were sung by Inez, Leslie, Aslandia, Orfa and Katie & Caleb. The prayer of dedication was given by Caleb's father, David Gillham. The reception followed inside the beautifully decorated lodge with a traditional Mexican wedding feast prepared by our very own Pati and Rosa. There were more than 40 guests in attendance. Several of our former MoO's girls returned to join in the festivities. It was such a blessing to welcome home Sandra, Denise, Yareli, Joana, Alessia, Zenyacen and Gade.

Katie and Caleb will be living in Wichita, Kansas, where Caleb will be doing his medical residency. Katie has already found a part-time job teaching Spanish. Thank you Katie and Caleb for blessing us all!



**WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER:
NORENE DANEK**

Norene and her husband, Rick have been married for 39 years, they have 4 children & 5 grandchildren. They have just got a Golden Retriever puppy, named "Chava"(pronounced "hava") which is Hebrew for "giver of life"! They are members of the Aldergrove Alliance Church for 24 years, the location of the Heating up the Baja. Norene sing on a Worship team and Rick is involved in Men's ministry and ushering. They both participate in the Alpha ministry hosted by their church. They have been actively involved with Mount of Olives Children's Village since 2011, their first trip down to Uruapan and the Baja 1000. A large group of us Canadians converged on the site and "raised the roof", literally and figuratively, of the Conference Centre as well as enjoyed all the Baja racing excitement during our stay. Needless to say, they both lost their hearts to the children and the Baja during that first excursion. Since then, they have visited numerous times, sponsored kids, built things, raced on the MOOCH racing team and been involved with MissionsFest in promoting Mount of Olives and MOOCH. Norene says, "I'm looking forward to working alongside the Board as we let the Lord lead us in directing the ministry of Missions Network International,.....I'm also longing for some fish tacos and churros!"

The New Director's Home Is Nearing Completion

Darrell and Maureen are packing boxes, bags, totes and containers getting ready for their big move to the new director's home sometime this summer. It has been almost seven years since they moved into house #3. They will be taking many fond memories with them. Often times hosting groups and serving meals for up to 40 people was a tight squeeze. Bunk beds occupied every spare inch of space making for some fun and exciting times!

The new director's home is beautiful! Over the top beautiful! The floor plan was chosen to take advantage of the amazing view of the surrounding valley. Many people donated their time, talent and treasure to help see this project completed. THANK YOU!

RV Site Update: Last year we announced that the new RV site was ready for visitors with four sites available (power, water and sewer). Now, a multi-purpose RV building is taking shape. This building has two separate showers & 2 separate restrooms, along with a laundry facility. A commercial eight ft. sink is ready to be hooked up on the kitchen side. Did we mention the view? It is amazing! Come and enjoy our beautiful weather and lend a helping hand here at Mount of Olives Children's Village as we serve the children and our Lord.

Twice now, **Santiago**, our resident football (soccer) star has been invited to an invitational competition for young soccer prospects.

Goalie: Santiago



Last year the competition was in Guadalajara. Santiago was so very proud that he didn't let in one goal, last year! This year the Competition is in Colima, Mexico, which is close to Mexico City. Again, this year there will be big league scouts looking for young players to sign. We don't know what the future holds for Santiago in the soccer arena, but what a wonderful opportunity for him to expand his world.

Please pray for him & cheer him on!



^New sunglasses, just so cute! Don't you agree?

NEW READING NOOK

Beautiful new bookcases built by Tim Boughen of Langley, B.C. arrived here at MoO in May. Thank you so much, Tim! Our new reading nook is a favourite area for both children and adults. Hundreds of adult christian books have been donated. Several of our kids are expanding their horizons by reading more. We have been blessed by the Church of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Manhasset, NY for raising funds for children's books in Spanish. Several of our children now have progressed to chapter books and are learning the love of reading. Many thanks to Kaari Vasquez for spearheading our "library" and fostering reading at Mount of Olives Children's Village.



Thank you Tim Boughen!

WE LOVE TO HAVE FAMILIES COME TO MOO!



Angela's New Office

Angela's paper work, administration duties, files and records have long out grown the small area in her bedroom designated as "office". I am sure Dani and Angela are thrilled at the prospect of having their bedroom all to themselves.

Her new office is nearly to the lock up state with all the windows, door and gable ends being completed this week.

The office is just outside the parking area of house #1. The new office building will allow Angela to have meetings there with government officials as well as facilitate family member visitations. It overlooks the playground and allows a clear view of the children playing and the comings and goings on driveway. Blessings all around!



EL CARRITO LOCO

Every time you purchase groceries at our local Calimax grocery store in Maneadero, you receive scratch and win cards. Maureen scratched three cards and yes, the 3rd one was a winner!

A 2 minute (up to 1500 pesos) shopping bonanza! Maureen gave the winning card to Angela, who decided that the 2 oldest boys, Javier and Javier Santiago would be our fastest bet.

On June 12 at 5:00 pm, the clock started as the boys raced through the store. ALL the children were in different aisles cheering them on. The cart was filled to overflowing before the 2 minutes were up! Great fun and lots of treats for everyone!

You are Invited to Join Us for the 6th Annual Heating Up The Baja

It is a great evening of tasty food, silent auction, live auction, games and entertainment. It is the most fun you will have all year, meeting the Board, hearing updates and helping us meet our operational budget for this next year at Mount of Olives Children's Village.

Friday September 29, 2017, Aldergrove Alliance Church BC Canada 6:30pm
Tickets \$15 in advance or a table of 8 for \$110. Call: 604-217-1454
Mark your calendars and get your tickets early as this event sells out! Maximum 250 people.

If you are unable to attend but wish to make a donation please use the donate button on our website missions-network.org or mail it to our US or Canadian offices.

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^Leslie reading her sister a Bible Story.

